

Allocation Committee II Charge
From Leon Cammen, Director, NSGO
March, 2011

Subject: Revised charge to the National Sea Grant Advisory Board to Review Sea Grant's Funding Model and its Policies and Criteria for Allocating Sea Grant Funding Resources

Purpose: To develop policies and criteria for managing and allocating Sea Grant funding resources that will be consistent with Sea Grant's legislative authority and will maximize the effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of the National Sea Grant College Program.

Background: Following the 2002 reauthorization of the National Sea Grant College Program, a policy document, *"Policy for the Allocation of Funds, FY 2003 and Beyond,"* was developed by a joint committee of the National Sea Grant Review Panel, the Sea Grant Association (SGA), and the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) to guide the allocation of appropriated funds in a manner consistent with the new legislation. Almost a decade later, state austerity budgets, coupled with years of relatively flat Federal funding and continued inflation, have increased the financial pressure on all state Sea Grant Programs. This has been especially difficult for the smaller programs, which have less ability to absorb budget cuts.

The National Sea Grant Advisory Board's 2009 report, *"Sea Grant Research,"* considered several alternative models for funding allocation, outlining the positive and negative aspects of each, but did not make any recommendations regarding their potential adoption.

It is time again to reconsider Sea Grant's current allocation policy in light of its current and prospective budget levels and determine whether it is still appropriate or whether we need to make changes in the way Sea Grant defines and supports its local, state, regional, and national programming.

Charge to the National Sea Grant Advisory Board: The National Sea Grant Advisory Board should provide advice on national policy and criteria for allocating funding resources for Sea Grant programs and initiatives that will maximize the effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of the National Sea

Grant College Program, be consistent with Sea Grant's legislative authority, and recognize the long-term decline in the purchasing power of the national Sea Grant appropriation. The allocation policy will need to meet the following objectives:

- Take into account strategies that State programs have developed to accommodate declining real federal and, in many cases, state funding
- Ensure that Sea Grant programs will have sufficient resources, to the extent overall funding allows, to function effectively in their respective environments
- Provide guidance for the allocation of funding between base programs and discretionary activities

In developing recommendations for the allocation policy, the Advisory Board should consider alternative models for allocating resources than the current policy, including those presented in the recent "*Sea Grant Research*" report. The Advisory Board should also consider whether guidelines are appropriate for the allocation of resources within Sea Grant programs for research, education, etc. and if so, what form those guidelines might take.

Participants: The Advisory Board, through the appointment of an appropriate subcommittee, will carry out this policy review. The subcommittee should include Board members and may include any other individuals who could provide useful perspective both from within and external to the Sea Grant network. The National Office is prepared to provide staff support and travel funds as necessary to facilitate the subcommittee's discussions.

Potential Schedule: Draft recommendations, with or without options, should be available for discussion at the fall, 2011 Board meeting.